

February 2010



The Bay Leaf

California Native Plant Society • East Bay Chapter
Alameda & Contra Costa Counties

www.ebcnps.org

www.groups.google.com/group/ebcnps

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Amazing Plants of Coastal San Mateo County

Speaker: Toni Corelli

Wednesday, February 24, 7:30 pm

Location: Garden Room, Orinda Public Library (directions below)

The San Mateo coast runs along the Pacific Ocean for over 60 miles, with acres of public land and over 25 parks and state beaches (such as Bean Hollow State Park shown in the picture below by speaker Toni Corelli). Until now, much of the flora has not been documented. But for the past two years, botanist Toni Corelli, along with other volunteers, has surveyed these public lands and identified over 600 plant species. Toni's presentation will highlight the plants and plant communities "west of Highway 1" and also show how volunteers in collaboration with State Parks are helping to restore native habitat on the San Mateo coast.

Toni Corelli is a botanist, a member of the Santa Clara Valley chapter of CNPS, and author of several books on the local flora

of San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. Copies of Toni's latest book, *Plants and Plant Communities of the San Mateo Coast*, will be available for purchase (\$17) after the presentation.

East Bay CNPS membership meetings are free of charge and open to everyone. This month's meeting takes place in the Garden Room of the Orinda Public Library at 24 Orinda Way (in Orinda Village). The Garden Room is on the second floor of the building, accessible by stairs or an elevator. The Garden Room opens at 7:00 pm; the meeting begins at 7:30 pm. Please contact Sue Rosenthal, 510-496-6016 or rosacalifornica@earthlink.net, if you have any questions.

Directions to Orinda Public Library at 24 Orinda Way

From the west, take Hwy 24 to the Orinda/Moraga exit. At the end of the off ramp, turn left on Camino Pablo (toward Orinda Village), right on Santa Maria Way (the signal after the BART station and freeway entrance), and left on Orinda Way. From the east, take Hwy 24 to the Orinda exit. Follow the ramp to Orinda Village. Turn right on Santa Maria way (the first signal) and left on Orinda Way.



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Once on Orinda Way, go 1 short block to the parking lot on the southeast side of the two-story building on your right. There is additional free parking beneath the building as well as on the street.

From BART (4 blocks): Exit the Orinda station, turn right and cross a pedestrian bridge, then cross a second pedestrian bridge on the left. Go 1 short block on the sidewalk to the third pedestrian bridge. Go 2 blocks on Orinda Way to the Orinda Library.

Upcoming Programs

Wednesday, March 24: Heath Bartosh—On the Edge of the Mount Hamilton Range: The Alameda Watershed's Rare Plants of Late Spring

Wednesday, April 28: Bill Libby—Redwood and Giant Sequoia: Why Are They Not Where They Are Not?

Wednesday, May 26: Holly Forbes—Conservation Adventures of the UC Botanical Garden

CHAPTER'S CONSERVATION PROGRAM RECEIVES AWARD

The East Bay Chapter's Conservation Program received a Volunteer Recognition Award from the California Native Plant Society Chapter Council. The award recognizes the Program's ongoing efforts to protect and restore native plants and their habitats in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. It acknowledges the thousands of hours of volunteer efforts contributed to the Conservation Program by the following committees and their Chairs: Conservation—Laura Baker, Unusual Plants—Dianne Lake, Rare Plants—Heath Bartosh, Vegetation—Erin McDermott and also Conservation Analyst, Lech Naumovich. Laura Baker accepted the award at the Chapter Council Banquet in December. She explained how much the Conservation Program relies on plant science. "Behind every comment letter on an EIR is the accumulated work of Dianne, Heath, and Erin and the many other volunteers on the committees and in the field that form a network of local experts. We are science-based—that's the thing that distinguishes CNPS from every other environmental organization. The data compilation provides the reliable factual basis that gives us credibility. Without the science, our com-

ments would simply be filed away as another set of opinions. Now agencies turn to us because, more often than not, they just don't have the data that they need." Laura described how the Conservation Committee relies on the dedication of other hard-working volunteers. They write letters, show up at public meetings, bird-dog issues, and track information on the internet and through other sources. And, most importantly, the multi-talented Conservation Analyst, Lech Naumovich, infuses our conservation program with professionalism and dedication and creates partnerships wherever he goes. The recipients of the award wish to acknowledge the many volunteers both past and present and the former committee chairs who have helped build the East Bay Chapter's Conservation Program through their work in the various committees, as well as our generous donors who have supported our Conservation Analyst's position. This award is shared with them and is dedicated to their spirit of generosity and passion in protecting our native flora.

Delia Taylor



Laura Baker and Lech Naumovich holding the Volunteer Recognition Award.

Photo by Alex Baker-Lubin.

CURRENT ACTIVITY OF CONSERVATION CHAIRS

Heath Bartosh, Rare Plant Chair, has been hard at work on the Botanical Priority Plant Protection program which targets our chapter's most important botanical resources that are at risk. Together with Lech Naumovich, Conservation Analyst, Heath has created maps, interviewed local botanists, and described the unique resources of these areas so that the conservation program can lobby agencies to ensure that the BPPAs receive the protection that they deserve. In addition, Heath works on legal listings of plants, keeps track of our rare plant populations, and advises regional planning efforts such as the various HCPs to ensure protection and mitigation of impacts to rare plants. He serves on the State CNPS Rare Plant Committee.

Dianne Lake, Unusual Plants Chair, has authored seven editions of *Rare and Unusual Plants of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties*. The eighth edition should be available March 1. She has logged thousands of hours of fieldwork to collect data that is compiled along with that contributed from many other volunteers. Dianne's database is one of the few in the

state that keeps track of native plants that are locally rare—often the next species to become rare or threatened on a more widespread basis. Every time the Conservation Committee submits a letter on a DEIR, it is accompanied by one of Dianne's lists of locally rare plants.

Erin McDermott, Vegetation Chair, keeps track of the huge array of vegetation communities in the East Bay Chapter and has established herself as an expert in the emerging science of vegetation mapping and classification. She has led vegetation surveys in such diverse sites as the Serpentine Prairie and Corral Hollow and leads field trips to sample and enjoy our East Bay vegetation communities. The Conservation Committee relies upon her to interpret the legal classifications of sensitive vegetation communities that are potentially impacted by development. Erin is on the State CNPS Vegetation Committee.

Laura Baker





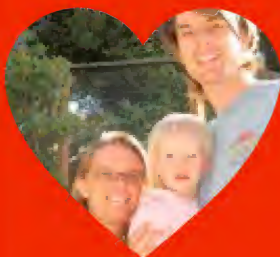
Frances Dalquist



Linda Hunt



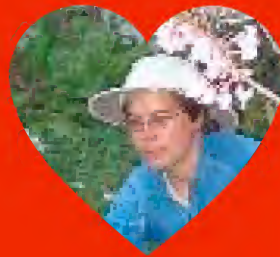
**Kristen Hopper
Alice Eaves**



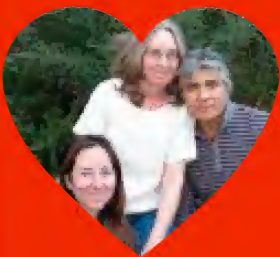
Tina Wistrom & family



Martha Booz



Christina McWhorter



Carol Castro & family

February 2010, the perfect time to reflect back on the last 12 months of our Membership column and recognize those members who were kind enough to share their stories with us. Frances Dalquist (February) was our first featured member. Receiving positive feedback from her article, we decided to continue our quest to bring more members forward so that we could get to know each other and share our diverse interest in native plants. It is now time to fill the next 12 months with your stories. All that is needed is a short article, 400 +/- words and a picture. Email elainejx@att.net or call 925.372.0387, we will be anxiously awaiting your response.



**Britt Thorsnes
Larry Abers**



FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, February 6, 9:00 am, winter walk on the morning side of Mount Diablo

Join Rare Plant Chairperson Heath Bartosh on this half day hike to explore Save Mount Diablo's recent acquisition of the 165-acre Viera-North Peak property. This moderately strenuous hike will be a cross-country trip, meaning we'll be blazing our own trails with repose, through the rich woodland, grassland, and serpentine habitats this property supports. Heath spent two days on the property during May 2009 and recorded 5 CNPS-listed plant species and 43 species considered locally rare within the East Bay. Although you shouldn't expect to see much in bloom, wintertime forays can often surprise unsuspecting native plant enthusiasts. Come help Heath expand the plant list and enjoy low angle light on the morning side of the mountain. We will meet at 9:00 am at the Clayton Library parking lot: 6125 Clayton Road in Clayton. After consolidating into fewer cars we'll drive out to our trailhead along Morgan Territory Road. In case of rainy weather on the morning of the hike, there will be a fallback date of Saturday February 13. This excursion has a limit of 10 people due to the absence of trails through most of the property: RSVP to Heath by February 5 via e-mail to hbartosh@nomadecology.com

Directions: From points west of Walnut Creek, take Highway 24 east to its end, and then get in the left lanes marked for 680 north toward Concord. Exit immediately at Ygnacio Valley Road, before you have merged with 680 north. At the exit ramp, turn right onto Ygnacio Valley Road and follow it east about 7.5 miles to its intersection with Clayton Road. Turn right onto Clayton Road; you will need to make a U-turn at a legal place to cross the road to the side with Clayton Library.

Sunday, February 14, 2:00 pm, Redwood Regional Park, Oakland

David Margolies will lead a walk along the stream and on the slopes above Redwood Creek in this large East Bay redwood forest, looking at early flowering plants and the trees and shrubs of the redwood forest. We will also look for newts and rainbow trout in Redwood Creek. The whole walk is about 2.5 miles with steep uphill and steep downhill portions. Walkers who want to avoid the steep trails can return along the stream trail about halfway through the walk. Meet at the Redwood Gate parking area at 2:00 pm.

ACTIVITIES OF OTHERS

Water-wise Gardening Using Native Plants, a talk by Deva Luna

Wednesday, March 17, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm
at Fremont Main Library, Fremont

Directions: To get there from the northern East Bay, get on 13 South (go east on Ashby Avenue in Berkeley, for example) and take the Redwood Road exit. From Oakland, go east on 35th Avenue (which turns into Redwood Road). From the southern East Bay, take 580 West to 13 North and exit at Redwood Road (immediately after the junction). From San Francisco, take the Bay Bridge, staying to the right (but do not go to San Jose). Take 580 East, and then 24 East (towards Walnut Creek). Take the 13 South exit from 24 and then the Redwood Road exit. Once on Redwood Road, go east (uphill). At the top of the hill you will cross Skyline Boulevard and then pass various equestrian facilities. Go down into the valley. About two miles from Skyline Boulevard, turn left into Redwood Regional Park, following the entrance road to the end to the parking lot. Walk takes place rain or shine.

Sunday, February 21, 9:30 am, Mount Olympia at Mount Diablo State Park

Gregg Weber will return to the canyons above Clayton to see many late winter flowers, with possible performances by sun, sky and clouds. Winter blooms to look for should include two species of manzanita, violas, *Nemophila*, and some early composites in flower. This is a strenuous walk with 2300 elevation gain on the way out, and all downhill on the return trip. The round trip distance is about 8 miles, so the trip will take 6-7 hours. Bring lunch and water and be prepared for a wide range of temperatures. The trip will proceed despite official predictions of rain, and we will decide on the day of the trip if the weather is sufficiently inclement before returning. If there is a heavy rain the trip will take place on February 28.

Directions: Take 24 or 680 to Ignacio Valley Road. Continue on Ignacio Valley Road into the city of Clayton, where you turn right onto Clayton Road. Take Clayton Road past the first intersection with Marsh Creek Road; in about a mile, it becomes Marsh Creek Road. Continue straight on Marsh Creek Road and turn right onto Regency Drive. Go three blocks on Regency Drive, then turn left onto Rialto Drive and follow it to the end. Regency Drive also ends at a trailhead, but that is for a different trail; be sure to turn left onto Rialto. Meet the group at the end of Rialto.

Learn how to conserve water and have a beautiful yard using native plants. Professional landscape designer Deva Luna has taught gardening for 11 years and works with Earthcare Landscaping.

NATIVE HERE

The soil is soft and it's a good time to plant. We have a lot of trees and shrubs that would love to find good homes: Sargent's cypress, coast live oak, blue oak, valley oak, black oak, canyon live oak, interior live oak, big leaf maple, buckeye, three or four species of willow, ninebark, pink-flowering currant, three species of gooseberry, and *Cornus sericea*, a beautiful red-stemmed dogwood.

After you've bought your plants check out our great plant labels and markers for sale. The labels are non-rusting metal and come in different lengths. The three types of markers are grease pencils, which will withstand all types of weather.

We also sell a CD of native plants of the East Bay, many of them plants we stock. It has beautiful photos and descriptions, and is cross-referenced by common name, scientific name, and plant type. Pick one up if you haven't already.

Nature observations

The sun disappears behind the hill to the west of the nursery, leaving us in the shade and cold. Rabbits scurry from under plant pallets, running for cover to the neighboring pallets. Hawks call as they fly from the eucalyptus and conifer trees around the nursery. Steller's jays imitate their calls.

Volunteers welcome

Volunteers are welcome to come during our open hours Tuesday, Friday, or Saturday and help transplant, sow seeds, clean up the nursery, spread wood chips, or do other tasks as needed. For more info email us at nativehere@ebcnps.org or call 510-549-0211. We're located across the street from the entrance to the Tilden Golf Course at 101 Golf Course Drive in Tilden Regional Park.

Margot Cunningham

PT. ISABEL RESTORATION CONTINUES

The Pt. Isabel restoration team had an exciting beginning to the new year on January 2 by discovering two small patches of *Nassella pulchra* (purple needle grass) across the trail from the restoration area where the team had planted *Nassella pulchra* at the December 2009 work party. Volunteer Michelle Chang spotted the bunch grasses amidst a thick carpet of mowed weeds and the team set to work to free them up and provide them with space to grow. Luckily for us, Michelle is doing research work at the University of California on California native bunch grasses and her focus is *Nassella pulchra*, so she can spot the grass even when it's a seedling or it's hidden amongst other plants. She gave us a little class on how to ID it, we learned that "*pulchra*" means "beautiful" in Latin – and we all know how attractive this grass is. Tom Kelly immediately found two more *N. pulchra* nearby. Now that we've found it, we'll flag it and our EBRPD friends assured us they will

mow around it as they carefully do already with the lupines and poppies that are on that same stretch of land that flanks the Bay trail.

At this work party, ten volunteers planted a 50 foot stretch of trail with *Lupinus albifrons* (silver bush lupine), *Artemisia californica* (California sagebrush), and *Elymus glaucus* (blue wildrye) – 48 plants in total. The week before, we had a mini work party and planted out a small *Aesculus californica* (buckeye) that we grew from seed harvested from the site. There are two mature but small buckeyes on either side of the bridge at Pt. Isabel that we think are environmentally dwarfed. They don't produce many seeds and those that they do often fall into the water so we keep an eye on them and collect as many as we can to tuck into the earth along the trail (one of which is now a little sapling) or to propagate at home and plant back at the site. We have four new buckeyes growing there now and a number of others ready to be put back. We've heard that Pt. Isabel had many buckeyes in the past so it seems appropriate for it to regain a few.

The area that we're working on (near the dog park), while relatively small compared to the entire trail, has been transformed by a cadre of amazing volunteers from a broom infested thicket to a revegetated area that is attracting the interest of passers-by and wildlife and the appreciation of the East Bay Regional Park District, whose support has been instrumental to our on-going progress.

Jane and Tom Kelly

Photo of the work team: Jane Kelly



Chapter Directory

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EBCNPS Sponsored Activities

Book & Poster Sales

Joanne Orenge
greentheglobe@juno.com

Grant Awards

Sandy McCoy
sandy McCoy@mindspring.com

Native Here Nursery

510-549-0211
Manager—Charli Daniels
nativehere@ebcnps.org
Sales—Margot Cunningham
bunchgrassmarg@gmail.com
Seed Collection—Gregg Weber
510-223-3310

Plant Fair

Gudrun Kleist
510-222-2320
gkleist@sbcglobal.net
and Charli Daniels
Coordinators

Restoration Projects

Leaders:
Huckleberry—Janet Gawthrop
Point Isabel—Tom and

Jane Kelly
510-704-8628 (w)
510-684-6484 (c)
kyotousa@sbcglobal.net
Strawberry Creek—Tom and Jane Kelly

Officers and Committee Chairs serve on the Board.

Committees are formed based on chapter needs and the interests of volunteers. Proposals for committees and projects are welcome and will be considered by the Board.

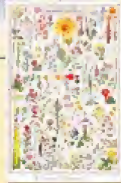
UPGRADE & RECEIVE

YOUR MEMBERSHIP TO A HIGHER LEVEL WITH OUR THANKS

to the \$45 level: CNPS Bumper Sticker



to the \$75 level:
Wildflower Poster



to the \$100 level:
CNPS Hat



to the \$300 level:
CNPS stainless steel
Kleen Kanteen



to the \$600 level:
Book: The Best
Spring Ever



to the \$1500 level:
Lily art prints



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www.cnps.org/cnps/join

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Time Value
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Field Trips (see page 5)

Saturday, February 6, 9:00 am, Mount Diablo.

Sunday, February 16, 2:00 pm, Redwood Regional Park.

Sunday, February 21, 9:30 am, Mount Diablo.

Membership Meeting (see page 1)

Wednesday, February 24, 7:30 pm, Garden Room, Orinda Library, Toni Corelli on coastal San Mateo County.

Native Here (see page 6)

Open for business & volunteer help: Fridays, 9 am - 12 pm, Saturdays 10 am to 2 pm, and Tuesdays 12 pm - 3pm.

Board of Directors' Meeting

Wednesday, February 17, at 6:30 pm, at the home of Laura Baker, 79 Roble Road, Berkeley.

To sign up to be notified of Chapter events: go to www.groups.google.com/group/ebcnps. You can also find out about Chapter events by going to www.ebcnps.org and clicking on "Activity Calendar" in the banner at the top.

Find the newest conservation topics on our Chapter Conservation web page: www.ebcnps.org/conservation.html.

To keep CNPS strong and able to accomplish its mission, the Board of Directors has challenged us to grow to a statewide membership of 15,000 by 2012. For the East Bay Chapter this means growing by 200 members per year. We will obtain this goal if every member renews.

Please **renew** your membership. Starting in February, the state office will mark members as lapsed immediately and

will no longer give a three-month extension. All lapsed members receive up to three renewal reminders.

You can join or renew on line at www.cnps.org. Automatic renewal with your credit card is now available.

Membership Application and Renewal Form

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Telephone _____

Email _____

I wish to affiliate with:

☐ East Bay Chapter (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties)

☐ Other _____

Membership category:

☐ Individual, \$45

☐ Family, Library, Group or International,
\$75

☐ Plant Lover, \$100.00

☐ Plant lover, \$100

☐ Patron, \$300

☐ Benefactor, \$600

☐ Mariposa Lily, \$1500

☐ Limited Income or student, \$25.00

Mail application and check to: California Native Plant Society, 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento CA 95816